

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-43 (cancelled)

44. (currently amended) A fiber optic tube assembly, comprising:  
at least one optical fiber;  
a tube, wherein the at least one optical fiber is disposed  
with the tube; and  
at least one strip of material, the at least one strip of  
material being formed from a plurality of molecules that have  
bonded to form a three-dimensional network substantially  
throughout and acting as a frictional agent to increase the force  
required for pulling the at least optical fiber out of the tube,  
wherein said at least one strip of material has a Shore A hardness  
of about 75 or less.

45. (cancelled)

46. (currently amended) The fiber optic tube assembly according  
to claim 44 45, the plurality of thermoplastic molecules are  
thermoplastic elastomers.

47. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly  
according to claim 46, the thermoplastic elastomers are block  
copolymers.

48. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly  
according to claim 47, the block copolymers are selected from the  
group of copolymers of styrene and butadiene, styrene and  
isoprene, styrene and ethylene, styrene and ethylene and butylene.

49. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly  
according to claim 44, the at least one strip of material being at  
least one thermoplastic material comprising: (i) about 10% to

about 100% by weight of thermoplastic polymeric molecules which have bonded to form a three-dimensional network substantially throughout the at least one thermoplastic material; and (ii) about 0% to about 90% of one or more additives that do not cause undesirable optical performance.

50. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 49, said at least one thermoplastic material comprises at least about 20% by weight of the thermoplastic polymeric molecules that have bonded to form the three-dimensional network.

51. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 49, the one or more additives is selected from the group of plasticizers, lubricants, foaming agents, heat stabilizers, flame retardants, antioxidant pigments, dyes, and fillers.

52. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 44, the at least one strip of material being a thermoplastic material possessing a melt flow temperature of about 80°C or greater.

53. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 44, the at least one strip of material being a thermoplastic material having a tensile modulus at 300% elongation in the range of about 1100 psi or less measured using ASTM method D-638.

54. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 44, the at least one strip of material being continuous along the length of the tube.

55. (currently amended) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 54, the at least one strip of material being a thermoset elastomer ~~having molecules that have bonded to form a three-dimensional network~~.

56. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 44, the at least one optical fiber being a portion of an optical fiber ribbon.

57. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 44, the at least one optical fiber being a portion selected from the group consisting of bundled optical fibers and loose optical fibers.

58. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 44, the at least one strip of material being formed from a plurality of thermoplastic polymeric molecules that have bonded to form a three-dimensional network substantially throughout, wherein the thermoplastic polymeric molecules are thermoplastic rubbers.

59. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 44, the fiber optic tube assembly being a portion of a cable.

60. (previously presented) A fiber optic tube assembly, comprising:

at least one optical fiber;

a tube, wherein the at least one optical fiber is disposed with the tube; and

at least one strip of material, the at least one strip of material acting as a frictional agent to increase the force required for pulling the at least optical fiber out of the tube,

wherein said at least one strip of material is at least one thermoplastic material comprising: (i) about 10% to about 100% by weight of thermoplastic polymeric molecules which have bonded to form a three-dimensional network substantially throughout the at least one thermoplastic material; and (ii) about 0% to about 90% of one or more additives that do not cause undesirable optical performance and the at least one thermoplastic material possesses a Shore A hardness of about 50 or less, a melt flow temperature over about 80°C.

61. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 60, the at least one strip of material being a thermoplastic material having a tensile modulus at 300% elongation in the range of about 1100 psi or less measured using ASTM method D-638.

62. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 60, the at least one strip of material being continuous along the length of the tube.

63. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 60, the at least one optical fiber being a portion of an optical fiber ribbon.

64. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 60, the fiber optic tube assembly being a portion of a cable.

65. (currently amended) A fiber optic tube assembly, comprising:  
at least one optical fiber;  
a tube, wherein the at least one optical fiber is disposed with the tube; and  
at least one strip of material, the at least one strip of

material being formed from a plurality of molecules that have bonded to form a three-dimensional network substantially throughout and acting as a frictional agent for inhibiting the shifting of the optical fiber longitudinally along the tube.

66. (cancelled)

67. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 65, the at least one strip of material being continuous along the length of the tube.

68. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 67, the at least one strip of material being a thermoset elastomer having molecules that have bonded to form a three-dimensional network.

69. (previously presented) The fiber optic tube assembly according to claim 65, the fiber optic tube assembly being a portion of a cable.